

Northern exposure



Health
Northern NSW
Local Health District

Newsletter, Issue 3
April 2016



Above, Riverlands staff, at right, and Northern NSW Local District Executives meet with Minister Pru Goward, fourth from left, to discuss the Stimulant Treatment Program launch for the LHD. Below, Minister Goward fronts the media accompanied by Member for Lismore Thomas George, left, and Director of Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol, Dr Richard Buss.

Minister tackles ICE issue

NSW Minister for Mental Health Pru Goward visited the Lismore Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Unit Riverlands last month to meet with Northern NSW Local

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We talk to
Jenny Smith,
Manager
Aboriginal
Health



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The Tweed
Heads Pink
Ladies turn 25!



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New Year brings many of the same challenges

The Minister for Mental Health, the Hon Pru Goward visited Lismore early last month to launch the Stimulant Treatment Program, which will be based in Riverlands, Lismore, under a hub-and-spoke model with services provided in Tweed Heads, Grafton, Ballina, Lismore and Casino.

The Minister met with the three Clinical Nurse Specialists who have undertaken implementation of the program. The Minister then undertook a tour of Riverlands, the Adult Mental Health Unit and the Adolescent Mental Health Unit at Lismore Base Hospital (LBH).

The Minister stated that she was impressed with the work being undertaken by the staff in each Unit. Dr Richard Buss and I provided a verbal brief to the Minister on the prevalent mental health issues in the Clarence Valley.

□ □ □

The footprint of the NNSW LHD continues to transform with a large number of Capital Works Projects occurring across the Health District.

The LHD was handed the keys to the new Byron Central Hospital (BCH) in late February, and March has seen a hive of activity at BCH as staff go through the commissioning phase to ready the hospital for opening.

The ongoing Stages 3A and 3B of the LBH redevelopment continue with early reports being that the new Emergency Department will be among the best, if not the best, in NSW.

The development of the LBH Multistorey Carpark continues and I am advised that the due date of completion is late May 2016.

The proposal for the Ballina District Hospital (BDH) Operating Suite and Medical Imaging Upgrade has been approved by the Ministry of Health with budget of \$6.3M over three years, with no start date yet determined.

Meanwhile, plans for the Bonalbo Multipurpose Service (MPS) have gone to Local Government for approval, and the LHD is awaiting the outcome of the request for the approved list of



tenderers for the Coraki HealthOne Service.

In terms of the Murwillumbah District Hospital (MDH) Satellite Renal Dialysis Unit, the Quantity Surveyor cost analysis of options is currently in progress, and we are awaiting the outcome.

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The recruitment of a new Chief Executive is still in progress and I am continuing to enjoy working with you all.

*Annette Symes
Acting Chief Executive*

From the Board Chair

The NNSW LHD Board held its third meeting for the year in Maclean on 30 March 2016. Prior to this meeting a number of Board Members took the opportunity to tour the Yamba Community Health Centre.

The Official Opening of the Yamba Community Health Centre will take place on 21 April 2016.

Before the Board meeting I was very pleased to meet with the Maclean Hospital ED staff and discuss the issues involved in urgent transfer by helicopter of a patient to the Gold Coast University Hospital in real time.

The difficulties faced by a single doctor in the ED of our smaller hospitals were made clear by simply observing the process. I also had detailed discussions with all the main players who are establishing the new Rehabilitation service.

Also preceding the Board Meeting, Board Members received an



impressive presentation from Maclean ED GP VMO Dean Robertson on Emergency Protocols.

A copy of Dean's presentation and video is available at the Emergency Care Institute ECI <http://www.ecinsw.com.au/symposium-2015> where Dean presented to the Emergency Care Symposium in November 2015; the Board was very supportive of Dean's involvement with ECI which is a part of the Agency for Clinical Innovation.

During the Board

Meeting, Board Members were updated and informed that the recruitment of an Occupational Therapist at Maclean has allowed the Maclean Rehabilitation Unit to open an initial five beds; given this great news a number of Board Members took the opportunity to take a quick look at the unit following the Board Meeting.

In the last Northern Exposure I emphasised the importance to ensure that activity is accurately recorded so that the NNSW LHD is in the best position to receive a budget which accurately reflects the Activity undertaken. I have been heartened by the response and work undertaken by Executive, Management and Clinicians to this request.

Again I thank all Staff for the work that you do.

*Brian Pezutti
Board Chair*



From left, Member for Lismore Thomas George, Network Manager Richmond/Clarence Mental Health Services Warren Shaw, Minister for Mental Health Pru Goward, Louise Megson from Child and Adolescent Inpatient Unit (CAIPU) and NNSW LHD Executive Director of Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Dr Richard Buss.

ICE usage has doubled

From Page 1

Health District (NNSW LHD) management and staff regarding the State Government's Stimulant Treatment Program (STP).

The STP will be a hub-and-spoke model co-located with local Drug and Alcohol Services targeting crystal methamphetamine (ICE) hotspots in Tweed, Lismore/Casino, Grafton and Ballina and surrounding areas.

Ms Goward said \$300,000 per annum for four years will be used to provide an STP Clinical Nurse Specialist for each location to improve the

management of ICE presentations and ease the burden on hospital Emergency Departments.

In welcoming Ms Goward, the NNSW LHD Executive Director of Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Dr Richard Buss said the rates of crystal methamphetamine-related hospitalisations have in the past four years been consistently high within the NNSW LHD.

"NNSW LHD increased from 57 presentations across the LHD in 2012-13 to 120 in 2013-14," Dr Buss said.

"In recognition of

this dramatic increase, the NNSW LHD received funding for consultation liaison under STP. This funding has been used to provide an STP worker in various locations across the LHD, specifically Tweed, Lismore/Casino, Grafton, and Ballina."

The STP model features: an integration with other drug and alcohol and health services; provision of stepped care within a harm minimisation framework; partnerships with other service providers; capacity building and a multidisciplinary approach to care.

Like us on Facebook

If you haven't checked us out already, please visit the Northern NSW Local Health District Facebook page. The page is used for a range of promotional activities, including

the Health Promotion newsletter, pictured right. The Facebook page is also used by Workforce for recruitment and by the Media Unit of the NNSW LHD.



In Brief...

You're invited to view Byron Hospital

The new Byron Central Hospital in Ewingsdale is hosting a Community Open Day on Saturday 9 April.

The 30-minute tours of the new hospital will visit key areas such as the Emergency Department, Inpatient Unit, and Birthing Unit.

The new \$88M facility brings together the full range of acute and Ambulatory Care (Allied and Community Health Nursing) services now provided in Mullumbimby, Bangalow, and Byron Shires. Some services will be at an expanded level, while top-class enhancements such as CT and Ultrasound will now be available closer to where residents live.

To register for a tour visit www.bchopenday.eventbrite.com.au or phone 0409 984488.

Jamie Oliver calls for softdrink tax

Jamie Oliver has urged Australia to "pull its finger out" on tackling obesity, after Britain's Finance Minister George Osborne announced a sugar tax on soft drinks.

The levy on drinks with more than five grams of sugar per 100 millilitres will be introduced in two years' time as Britain attempts to cut down on spiralling childhood obesity levels.

Mr Osborne announced the measure in his annual budget statement.

"We all know one of the biggest contributors to childhood obesity is sugary drinks," he said.

Jamies Oliver came out in support of the new sugar tax and urged other countries to follow Britain's lead.

"It's about time your governments got on this," he said.

"Australia, pull your finger out."

Exciting times ahead

The past month has seen me log quite a few kilometres as I travelled around the Health District attending meetings and media opportunities.

I had enormous pleasure in attending the Yamba Community Health Centre's celebration of their young artists (see Page 8) and the amazingly talented contribution the students of Yamba have made to the Centre.

The theme for the student's inspiration was 'Our Valley' and the contrast of the coastal scenes through to the bucolic hinterland is simply inspiring.

I have spent a large amount of my time in Tweed Heads and Byron Shire this month as preparations continue for the opening of the new Byron Central Hospital (BCH).

It is difficult not to be impressed by BCH and with every trip to the new hospital, it becomes apparent that the opening date is drawing closer.

The special Community Open Day will be held on Saturday 9 April and I encourage all staff to take the time to tour the facility and see first hand what a modern hospital looks like.

The high level of staff input into the design of the new hospital was made clearly evident to me when I was advised that the design of the bathtubs in the birthing suites is unique.

The local Mullumbimby Birthing Unit midwives provided design specifications to the builders on what they believed the design needed to be for the birthing tubs, with the builders

then turning these designs into a reality.

Also of note in the new BCH is the artwork, most of which was produced by local artists and some brought across from the existing Mullumbimby and Byron Hospitals. To see the fusion of the artworks with the themes and design of the hospital is remarkable.

Finally, I would like to mention the remarkable contribution made by the Pink Ladies at all NNSW LHD facilities. The Tweed Hospital Pink Ladies celebrated 25 years recently (see Page 9) and I was impressed by the dedication, kindness, and empathy shown by this wonderful group of women.

Acting Editor, Lee McDougall



What's up?

What is going on in your part of the NNSW LHD? Would you like the rest of the LHD to know?

Please email your contributions for Northern Exposure to lee.mcdougall2@ncahs.health.nsw.gov.au. Photos and dot points with all the information are most welcome. For inquiries phone 6620 2141.

Maree Field - Quiet Achiever

Name: Maree Field aka 'Shippy'

Position: Ward CSO

Location/Site: Ballina District Hospital

Nominated By: Suzanne Mechior, Emergency CNS/Acting NUM

Maree Field aka "Shippy" as she is affectionately known is an exceptional candidate for the Quiet (not-so-quiet in voice) Achiever nomination.

Shippy is a robust, vibrant, enthusiastic, highly energetic, efficient and skilled person.

She applies herself to the task set her and so many others (not within her expected paid position) with an inspirational fervor.

Historically Shippy has been the staff social event organiser, community fundraiser and 'voice' around the Ballina Hospital and Lismore Base for many years

Shippy started her health career as an EN training at St Vincent's Hospital Lismore and on her way to Sydney Royal North Shore in 1980 she stopped by Ballina Hospital for a six week period to fill in some



time. She never left and has been here ever since in some capacity or another!

From Nursing and running the

ward to Ward Clerk and continuing to run the ward, Shippy thrives as the ward CSO and medical roster queen for Ballina today.

Her commitment to providing excellent service at all levels is an inspiration and her energy continues to provide a daily breath of fresh air and humour at those times when we get caught in a 'ground hog' moment.

Shippy is also an exceptional musician, classically trained in piano and will still let her fingers tinker whenever she gets the chance.

Shippy is also committed to keeping herself fit and can be seen regularly taking the dogs for sunrise walks by pounding the pavements of Ballina.

Shippy is a caring and devoted Mum and grandma, with three grandchildren keeping her on her toes.

She is one of the foundational keystone employees for Ballina; progressive and able to keep up with the rapidly changing face of health care.

It is said by her colleagues she can move mountains!

All smiles for LBH Go Live

Months of preparation came to an end at one minute past midnight on 10 March when LBH's Electronic Medical Records (eMR2) system went 'live'.

eMR2 Project Manager Mary Mackenzie said the Go Live went very smoothly.

"There were a couple of minor initial teething problems but overall it went very well without any high or critical issues," Ms Mackenzie said.

"The staff have really embraced the change, with good engagement across all disciplines.



Smiles all around: above, new graduate Registered Nurses Ashleigh Woods, left, and Tamara Hayward input patient records as does, at left, Occupational Therapist Cara Whyte (seated) with Alison Vary, left, and Mary Mackenzie looking on.



"I want to congratulate all staff for the way they have remained positive and embraced the change.

"I would also like to acknowledge the excellent support provided by staff from eHealth and Illawarra Shoalhaven Sydney,

the Clinical Information Service (CIS) Unit, the valuable assistance of the LBH Nurses Educators, the Clinical Risk Resource Nurse (CRRN) and Clinical Nurse Educators, Riverland's and Mental Health Staff, and our entire Project Team."

Emergency focus

The Emergency Medicine Education and Training (EMET) program has been operating across the eight smaller hospitals surrounding Lismore since 2012, providing valuable emergency situation training to front-line staff from Ballina, Lismore, Casino, Grafton, Maclean, Kyogle, Nimbin, Bonalbo, and Urbenville hospitals.

"There are three Emergency Department specialist

doctors, Drs Charlotte Hall, Andre Danforth, and myself who travel between us more than 2200 kilometres each month to provide essential face-to-face training to frontline staff," Dr Martin Chase, EMET Lismore Emergency Clinician, pictured centre, said.

A one-day training workshop was held last month at the Nyumbalihgu medical simulation centre with positive feedback from all participants.



Skinner welcomes Aboriginal midwives

NSW Health Minister Jillian Skinner has congratulated the largest cohort of Aboriginal student midwives to commence work in NSW public hospitals.

Mrs Skinner said nine Aboriginal student midwives were beginning postgraduate midwifery training at Blacktown, Royal North Shore, Westmead, Port Macquarie, Lithgow, Nepean, Fairfield, Wagga Wagga and Broken Hill hospitals.

The student midwives successfully applied for the training positions via the Midwifery Student Application for Recruitment and Training (MidStART) webpage.

"NSW has the highest number of Aboriginal midwives, at 79, and we are outperforming all other states," Mrs Skinner said.

"We are committed to increasing the Aboriginal nursing and midwifery workforce even further through our Aboriginal Nursing and Midwifery Strategy.

"I hold all our nurses and midwives in the highest esteem for choosing two of the most rewarding careers in the public health sector."

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Leslie Williams said providing support to Aboriginal student midwives creates a culturally competent and safe midwifery workforce, which helps drive improvements in the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal mothers and babies.

"This year's cohort of nine Aboriginal postgraduate midwifery students is the highest since the Aboriginal Nursing and Midwifery Strategy began in 2005," Mrs Williams said.

Chronic pain website has new resources

Since its March 2014 launch, more than 46,000 people in 123 countries have accessed the Agency for Clinical Innovation Pain Management Network website.

The site continues to provide a wealth of information and support for General Practitioners, other clinicians and consumers managing chronic pain.

Affecting one in five people, chronic pain is pain that persists for more than three months and doesn't go away.

It interferes with people's lives, work and relationships. Many people with chronic pain feel isolated and alone, and that others don't understand their experiences.

Learning different strategies to manage pain is an important part of an integrated approach to living with chronic pain.

Among the new resources on the website is Quicksteps, a decision support tool to help GPs work with their patients to create tailored, individual chronic pain management plans.

It provides a framework for direct care and guidance on contributing factors including psychological distress, medications, physical activity, sleep and nutrition. Together, the GP and patient create a self-management plan.

To learn more about how ACI is working to make a difference visit www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/make-a-difference/ work or visit the ACI Pain Management Network Website at www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/chronic-pain.



NNSW LHD staff and community sector representatives enjoy a Breakfast of Champions.

Trauma Informed Care pilot projects launched

The term 'Breakfast of Champions' gained a new meaning in February when the Trauma Informed Care (TIC) project got underway at the University Centre for Rural Health (UCRH).

The NNSW LHD Board allocated funds to implement TIC in the LHD, with the pilot projects being run in the Lismore Base Hospital Emergency Department (LBH ED), Tweed Valley Clinic and the Lismore Adult Mental Health Unit.

Coordinating the TIC pilot projects is Dr Mim Weber, Mental Health Program Coordinator, Area Mental Health.

"TIC refers to service providers recognising the high prevalence of histories of interpersonal trauma with people who present to health services, understanding the effect of trauma and responding in ways that do not re-traumatise or add to the burden of trauma," Dr Weber said.

The first TIC training seminar, titled 'Am I a trauma informed practitioner?' was



From Left: Rosie Kew, Narelle Gleeson and Cathy Kezelman.

opened by NNSW LHD Board Chair Dr Brian Pezzutti, with Dr Cathy Kezelman AM, CEO of Adult Survivors of Child Abuse (ASCA) the keynote speaker. Presentations were also provided by Leisa Hoffmann (peer worker) and David Cutts (psychiatric consultant).

"The day was opened by Dr Kezelman with a 'Breakfast of Champions', an interagency gathering of 22 people with the purpose being to exchange ideas and practices of TIC as well as exploring ways of overcoming barriers to implementing TIC in their

services," Dr Weber said.

"This was followed by 38 doctors and medical students from the Mental Health Service and the LBH ED attending the seminar.

"In addition, close to 40 people from other professional groups linked in via video-conference from multiple sites across the LHD."

Participating services included Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol, as well as representatives from the employment, housing, disability support, neighbourhood centre, mental health CMOs and community transport sectors.

Interview with Jenny Smith

This month Northern Exposure sat down with Jenny Smith, Manager, Aboriginal Health Unit for the Northern NSW Local Health District. Jenny is a Bundjalung-Yaegl woman and a Traditional Caretaker whose Aboriginal ancestral footprint is the Northern NSW region including Lismore, Ballina and south to Maclean. Jenny talked with Lee McDougall about her experience working for NNSW LHD as an Aboriginal woman.

Jenny Smith began her career with the NNSW LHD in 2010, working within the operational and strategic management arm of the Aboriginal workforce. Before long, Jenny found herself elevated to the position of Manager, Aboriginal Health Unit.

When asked what this role entails, with a broad laugh Jenny replies: "Everything Aboriginal!"

What Jenny means by the comment becomes clear as the discussion progresses, with the role encompassing the elements of developing various action plans for the NNSW LHD, including the Reconciliation Action Plan and the NNSW Integrated Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015-2020 as well as development of a "Sorry Business Policy (Grief and Loss)".

Jenny stated that one of the major challenges she experiences in her role is the low level of knowledge regarding the needs of Aboriginal people and the cultural differences between non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal people.

"While we have a fairly good representation of Aboriginal people in the LHD workforce as a whole, there is a real need to grow the Aboriginal employment in clinical and general management roles to broaden the understanding and knowledge of Aboriginal people," Jenny said.

Of particular focus for Jenny is the desire to increase the number of Aboriginal nurses employed across the entire LHD.

Jenny states that this need has been actively recognised

at a Board and Executive level of the LHD, and as such many steps are being taken to address this issue.

One such step was the development and release last year of the NNSW Integrated Aboriginal Health

The Plan also seeks to build relationships with other key Agencies to collaboratively improve partnership arrangements between services.

"NSW Health alone can't increase the percentage of

commit to studying and training, there will be local opportunities for them further down the track."

In speaking with Jenny, it quickly becomes very clear that what continues to motivate her each day is her commitment to family and her community.

"The reason I do what I do (Manager, Aboriginal Health Unit) is that I hate going to funerals, and sadly within the Aboriginal community we have a lot of them," Jenny said.

"Both my grandmothers were very young when they died, one was 42 and the other was 38. I've already outlived both those ages, and I am determined to change the health statistics for Aboriginal people.

"The life expectancy rates for Aboriginal people continue to be much lower than non-Aboriginal people, and Aboriginal people continue to have a greater risk and incidence of chronic diseases including diabetes, heart disease, and kidney disease.

"There is an urgent need to address the lifestyle factors that pre-dispose my people to their chronic conditions. Many of the programs we run across the NNSW LHD, in partnership with other external agencies, aim to provide education and information to Aboriginal people to help them adopt healthier lifestyle choices.

"We need to educate our Mob that being an Aboriginal person means that we have a different health footprint and as such we need to look after ourselves so that we can again live the long lives of our ancestors."



NNSW LHD Manager, Aboriginal Health Unit Jenny Smith holds a Nulla, a traditional Aboriginal club.

and Wellbeing Plan 2015-2020 which articulates the priorities and future directions for the LHD in the development and delivery of health and wellbeing services to Aboriginal people.

The Plan contains, amongst its many facets, a commitment to explore ways in which to increase the Aboriginal workforce.

Aboriginal people entering our workforce," Jenny said. "We need to work in conjunction with TAFE, high schools, traineeship agencies, and the Aboriginal communities so that we can train Aboriginal people into all streams across the health workforce.

"Our young people need to know that if they

Grafton's UHA Alba honoured

The tireless fundraising efforts of Grafton United Hospital Auxiliary (UHA) President, Alba Linklater of Tucabia has won her the title of 'Clarence Electorate Woman of the Year'.

Clarence MP, Chris Gulaptis made the announcement at a celebratory event he hosted at Grafton Base Hospital where Alba was surrounded by her fellow volunteers, Hospital Executive staff, family and friends.

"Alba has done an extraordinary job as President of the Grafton Branch of the UHA for over 11 years," Mr Gulaptis said.

"She is motivated, inspiring and is always coming up with new ideas to raise much needed funds for the hospital such as establishing an op-shop on the hospital grounds."



Above: Local primary school children proudly display their artworks that now grace the walls of the Yamba Community Health Centre. Right, budding artist Taneka Randall-Honeysett shows off her work.

Yamba's masterpieces

Yamba Community Health Centre (YCHC) is now a much brighter place thanks to the creative efforts of Yamba's artistic primary school children.

YCHC staff last year approached the three local primary schools and asked whether their students would like to

create some artworks for the reception area and hallway leading to the clinical rooms.

"The request was met with great enthusiasm, with the students provided the theme of 'Our Valley' from which to create their masterpieces," Mr Madden said.



Immunisation HealthPathways

- Immunisation – Childhood
- Immunisation – Adolescent
- Immunisation – Adults
- Immunisation – Childhood
- Planning Immunisation Catch-ups
- Pertussis Vaccine for Pregnant and Postpartum Women
- Influenza Immunisation
- Vaccine Storage and Cold Chain Breaches
- Travel Vaccination
- Rabies and Australian Bat Lyssavirus

These pathways provide latest evidence based information on how to assess, manage and refer patients to local services in a timely manner. Patient information and clinical resources are also provided.

For more information:

- Call the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) on 1800 653 809.
- Call the local Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055.

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Your feedback/comments are always

appreciated and are important in helping us provide a useful and usable website.

If you find any information that may be inaccurate, please let the team know. You can send feedback to the HealthPathways Team by using the send feedback button located on the top right hand section of the Homepage or Pathway.

To obtain further information on HealthPathways email: kkeyte@mnc.healthpathways.org.au
Mid and North Coast HealthPathways Website: <https://manc.healthpathways.org.au>
Username: manchealth Password: conn3ct3d

Code Pink for The Tweed Hospital

Twenty five years of caring, comfort, and convenience was celebrated last month when The Tweed Hospital's Pink Ladies marked their 25th Anniversary with a special morning tea on 24th March.

The Director of Tweed Byron Health Services Group (TBHSG) of the Northern NSW Local Health District (LHD), Bernadette Loughnane, said the Pink Ladies had provided hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours to TTH during the past 25 years.

"The Pink Ladies commenced with an objective of 'adding to the comfort, convenience and satisfaction of the patients,' Ms Loughnane said.

"While many of the tasks the Pink Ladies provided 25 years ago have since ceased due to advances in patient care and changes to Work, Health & Safety (WHS), the ladies continue to volunteer in the wards to provide that all important person-to-person contact."



From left, Member for Richmond Justine Elliott, TTH Pink Ladies President Jean Collier, inaugural members Laureen Jones and Beverley Taylor, Executive Director TBHSG Bernadette Loughnane, and Community Elder Aunty Chris Morgan.



Top left: from left, Jean Collier, Laureen Jones, Acting Chief Executive Annette Symes, Beverley Taylor, Bernadette Loughnane.

Above: Julie Reynolds, left, and her 17-year-old granddaughter Georgie Bird who both volunteer as Pink Ladies.

Bottom left: from left, Bernadette Loughnane, Pam Barrett and her daughter Catherine Barrett at the Pink Ladies 25th Anniversary morning tea.



Mullumbimby Birth Centre midwife Leanne Crumpton provides a regular update with expectant mum Nancy.

Move won't stop babies

As plans progress for the opening of the new Byron Central Hospital (BCH), the existing Mullumbimby Birth Centre at Mullumbimby District Hospital continues to provide services to expectant mums, with contingency plans in place right up to, and including, 'move day'.

The Executive Director of the Tweed Byron Health Service Group Bernadette Loughnane said the actual

'move day' to BCH had yet to be determined, with staff of the Mullumbimby Birth Centre developing a comprehensive plan to ensure an uninterrupted delivery of service for expecting mums.

"Mullumbimby Birth Centre will continue to see women throughout their pregnancy and birth during this transition period, and including on move day," Ms Loughnane said.

Five ethical positions

The North Coast NSW Human Research Ethics Committee (NCNSW HREC) is currently expanding its membership with several positions open for recruitment.

HREC is convened in accordance with the guidelines set out in the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research.

The role of the Ethics Committee is to review and consider the ethical implications of research involving human subjects, which is proposed to be undertaken within both the Northern NSW Local Health District (NNSW LHD) and Mid North Coast Local Health District (MNC LHD).

The positions vacant include two layman, one laywoman, one Pastoral Carer eg: Minister Religion or Aboriginal Elder, and one lawyer (who is not engaged to advise the institution).

To be eligible for appointment in the lay categories, men and women must have no affiliation with the NNSW LHD and/or MNC LHD and must not be currently engaged in medical, scientific, legal or academic work. The positions are voluntary and do not attract any remuneration.

Further information about the NCNSW HREC and the current vacancies is available from: <http://nnswhd.health.nsw.gov.au/about/northern-nsw-local-health-district-human-research-ethics-and-governance/the-north-coast-nsw-human-research-ethics-committee/ncnsw-hrec-vacant-positions/>

For further information contact the Executive Officer

NCNSW HREC, on 02 6672 0269, mobile 0421 028 924, email EthicsNCNSW@ncahs.health.nsw.gov.au.

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Trip down memory lane at Urbenville MPS

Urbenville Multipurpose Service (MPS) was transformed by ribbon and lace recently when residents, the resident's families, and staff held a wedding dress and wedding day memorabilia display.

Urbenville Executive Office/Director of Nursing Nancy Martin said the idea for the wedding dress display arose from a number of residents reminiscing about their own wedding days.

"The discussion progressed to the idea of a wedding dress display and

it was wonderful to see such support from the community, and the residents at the Urbenville MPS," Ms Martin said.

"The day included a display of wedding photos, a display of gowns and a parade of wedding dresses modelled by local school students.

"I would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to all those in the community who lent dresses, photos, and items to be displayed. It was wonderful to look back in time right through to current day."

Ms Martin thanked Kathy Goldthorpe Activities Officer for her tireless effort in organising the day, Ann Varley for comparing, Jolene Ward from Enchanted Florist for the flowers, the management and staff at the hospital, all the community members who helped on the day, and the staff from Woodenbong



Local school student Brooke wearing Grace Skinner's (resident), pictured left, wedding dress, pearls and bouquet.

Central School, who made the day run smoothly.

"The residents had a lovely day and very much enjoyed seeing their dresses back in the lime light," Ms Martin said.

\$40,000 haircut for Our Kids

Our Kids is \$40,000 richer thanks to Byron Bay local, Corey Holden, who lost his four-year-old blonde, waist-length dreadlocks for the charity.

Our Kids is a local charity that raises funds to purchase paediatric equipment for Lismore Base Hospital (LBH) and the surrounding hospitals in the region.

Corey is the Plumbing Site Manager of A. Murray and Sons Plumbing, a sub-contractor on the Byron Central Hospital (BCH) project. His aim was to raise \$10,000 before he would let anyone come near his locks.

Corey's campaign attracted a lot of support, including a \$5000 donation from Brookfield Multiplex, the builders of BCH.

Corey last month visited the Children's Ward at LBH, along with Stuart Clark from Brookfield Multiplex, and handed over \$40,000 to Our Kids.

"\$40,000 for a haircut; my initial target was \$5000!" Corey said. "I cannot begin to fathom the amount of generosity and support from friends, family and especially



the bosses, builders, sub-contractors and suppliers involved in the BCH site.

"This is a tremendous effort by the team on the BCH project, as it is one of the largest donations from an event held by the community for Our Kids," Rebekka



Left, Corey Holden. Above, from left, Corey, Rebekka Battista, and Stuart Clark Project Manager Brookfield Multiplex with the \$40,000 cheque for Our Kids.

Battista, Our Kids Fundraising Coordinator said.

Our Kids raises funds through community events, sponsorships and donations and this year is promoting payroll deductions for those who would like to give regularly to help children stay local when needing medical care.

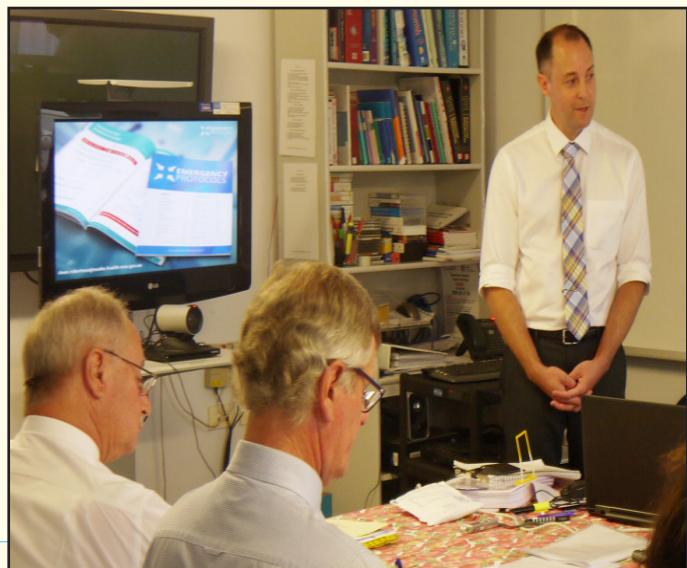
For more information about Our Kids, phone 6620 2705.

The last word ...



Tweed Byron set to 'go live'

Pictured left, Richmond Network e-change manager Kym Hickey and Tweed Byron e-change manager Matt Cupitt go over the preparations for The Tweed Hospital's 'go live' on May 18. During April, Ballina, Casino, Kyogle, Nimbin and Urbenville will all 'go live'. During the next month, new devices will be deployed to the inpatient wards within Tweed Byron in readiness for their change to electronic medical records.



Board brush up on protocols

Maclean ED GP VMO Dean Robertson presents to the NNSW LHD Board on Emergency Protocols during their monthly meeting, held last month at Maclean District Hospital.

Thanks to State's Volunteers

NSW Health Volunteers Appreciation Day was held on March 11, with Health Minister Jillian Skinner, pictured visiting Hornsby Hospital, giving her thanks to the patient and hospital volunteer support services.

"Volunteers make such a difference in our hospitals and health facilities, donating their time and care to patients and their loved ones, while assisting staff with a range of support duties," Mrs Skinner said.



Ngayundi meeting held

Pictured right, Lyndal Smith, left, and Lynette Roberts at the Ngayundi Community Meeting, held last month at Namatjira Haven. The Ngayundi Community Meeting this month discussed a range of issues including a presentation from Alison Renwick on The

Northern Mental Health Emergency Care Rural Access Program (MHEC-RAP) which is part of the NSW Government's Mental Health Reform agenda. The group also received a presentation from the North Coast Primary Health Network on their ICE program.